

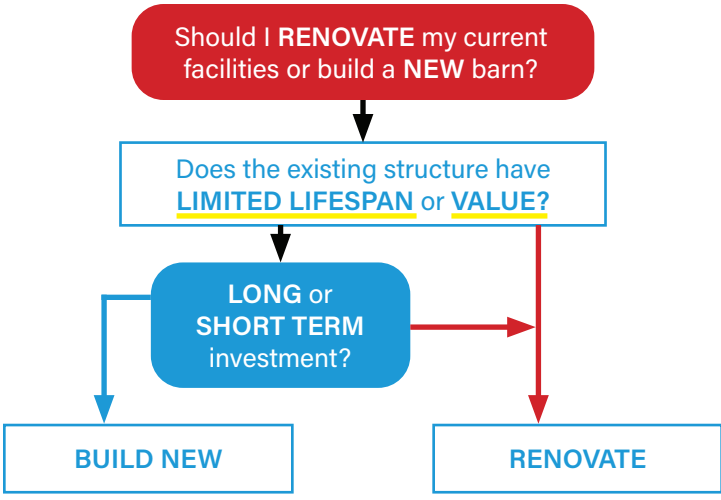
# Group Sow Housing: Decision Tree



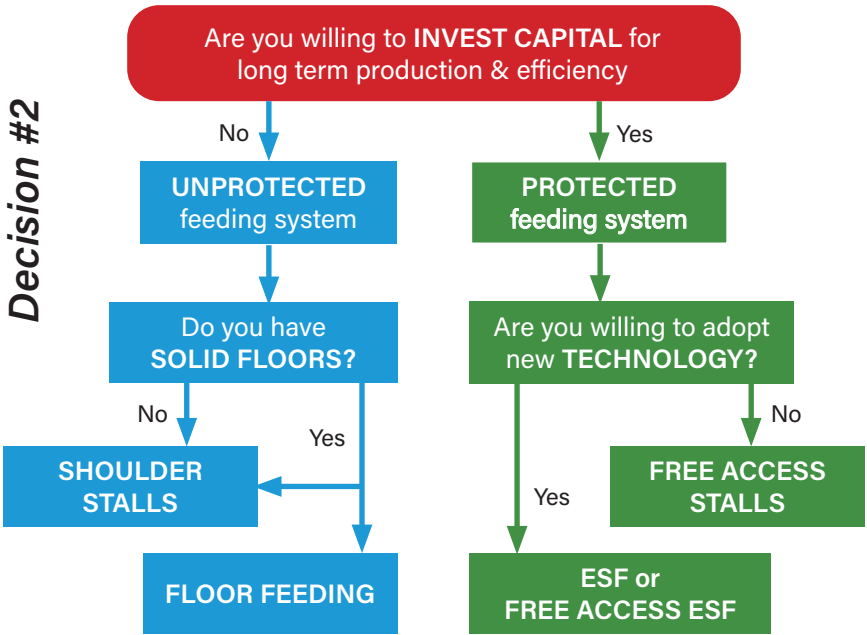
PRAIRIE  
SWINE  
CENTRE



Decision #1



Decision #2



## UNPROTECTED FEEDING SYSTEMS

### Shoulder Stalls

- Lowest conversion cost
- Solid area for feed drops

### Floor Feeding

- Low conversion cost
- Can use existing feed lines

- Suitable for small static groups of 10 to 20 sows
- Good stockmanship required: form small, uniform groups and monitor sows daily at feeding
- Expect variation in body condition, feed wastage and production challenges due to competition
- Small pens require more space per pig in pens and more alleyways for access
- Feeding aggression is reduced in shoulder stalls compared to floor feeding

## UNPROTECTED FEEDING SYSTEMS

### ESF

- Static pens of 50 to 60 sows OR dynamic pens of 60 to >300 sows
- Individual feeding is electronic
- High conversion cost
- Efficient use of space

### Free-Access ESF

- Static pens of 20 to 60 sows
- Individual feeding is electronic
- Moderate conversion cost
- Efficient use of space

### Free-Access Stalls

- Static pens of 20 to 40 sows
- All sows in a pen receive the same amount of feed
- Minimal aggression and competition
- High cost

- Individual feeding allows for more uniform body condition
- Reduced feed costs due to less wastage and overfeeding
- Can still have competition at the feeder stall
- Potential for precision feeding as technology and data management improve

